19.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A method of managing and distributing information provided by both a user and a vendor comprising:

receiving, from the vendor, product information about a product and additional product information about additional products that can be used with the product;

receiving, from the user, user information which includes a product used by the user and a requested information type from the user;

storing the product information about a product and additional product information about products available from a plurality of vendors that can be used with the product and the user information which includes a product user by the user and the requested information type from the user, all in a database, wherein said requested information type further signifies a difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user;

distributing the additional product information to a user automatically corresponding to the additional products that can be used with the product used by the user and which match the user's requested information type; and

distributing the user information, also comprising a number of times a particular software product is used by the user, to a different vendor other than the software product's vendor.

20.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) The product information distributed to the user as claimed in claim 18, wherein said product information distributed to the user includes a plurality of product information correlating to products used by the user as indicated by the user information.

REMARKS

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 and 10-20 are appending.

Various claims are amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the Specification, including Figures 2, 4 and 6, and pages 20, line 21 – page 21, line 9; and page 24, line 20 – page 25, line 8.

II.   THE TELEPHONIC INTERVIEWS WITH EXAMINER ON SEPTEMBER 4 AND 5, 2001

The Applicant wishes the thank the Examine for his time and discussing the Application on these dates with the undersigned attorney.

III.   REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Page 2 of the Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill, U.S. Patent No. 5,761,649 (Hereinafter "Hill") in view of Peschel, Joe, "Unfurled" (Hereinafter "Peschel") and further in view of Bison, Gauzily, "Mpresswire" (Hereinafter "Bisson").

Peschel describes an "oil change" software application which automatically scans a user's hard drive and looks for updated versions on a database using the Internet. The database receives updated versions from a variety of vendors. The Oil Change software described in Peschel does not does not send information back to any of the vendors.

Hill describes a system where catalog data is sent from a vendor directly a home user. The customer is asked to enter the telephone number of this vendor's computer and registration data such as his name, address, etc. The customer's computer then dials the vendor directly, which after verifying the customer's entered information, responds with recent catalog data, including graphics and text related to selected products.

In the previous rejections from statements by the Examiner regarding the claims before the amendments made herein, it was stated stated that the Oil Change program described in Peschel discloses or suggests transmitting files from various vendors to a central database to a user. The Examiner also stated that Hill discloses or suggests transmitting information about products to users upon user request.

Claim 1 is now amended to recite, ". . . the user registration information, also comprising a number of times a particular software product is used by the user, is transmitted from the user information general management means to a different vendor other than the software product's vendor."

Nothing in either of Peschel, Hill, or Bisson, discloses or suggests transmitting user information, which can comprise a number of times a particular software product is used by a user, to vendors other than the software product's vendor.

In fact, in Peschel, no communication is disclosed between the database or users to the actual vendors themselves about user information. The only communication from the database to the actual vendors may consist of the identification of a particular version on the database, to see if it needs updating. However, vendors in Peschel know nothing about individual users.

Hill does not utilize multiple vendors, therefore this feature is also not disclosed or suggested in Hill. Bisson also does not relate to this type of communication.

One possible advantage of the present invention over the combination of the relied upon references, is that as an example only, in one possible embodiment of the present invention, one vendor may be able to more efficiently market their products to users of products of a different vendor. For example (as discussed during the telephonic interview), if a user plays an online game such as "Everquest" and has executed the program more than a predetermined number of times, even though this vendor of this game is Verant Interactive, this usage information can be automatically sent to another vendor such as Blizzard who makes a similar game such as Diablo. In turn, Blizzard may then choose to send targeted emails to this user.

No such communications from the Oil Change database in to the vendors is disclosed or suggested. As stated above, Hill only operates with one vendor. Bisson also does disclose to the communications discussed above.

Therefore, the relied upon references, taken individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the application as now claimed.

Independent claims 10-16 and 18-19 are amended similarly to claim 1, and for the above reasons, should also be allowed over the cited art.

Dependent claims 2-9, 17 and 20 are dependent upon the above mentioned independent claims, and should be allowed in at least due to their dependency.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments, the rejected claims are not unpatentable over the relied upon references, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any remaining informalities to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such informalities.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
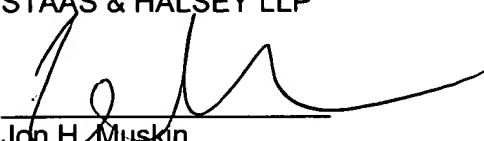
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: a -27-01

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

<u>IN THE CLAIMS:</u>

Please AMEND the claims as follows: (all of the claims are listed below, whether or not amended)

1.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A computer implemented management system, which manages registration of computer-related products, including hardware and software products, comprising:

a user information general management means, generally managing user registration information, about users of hardware and software products, and using status information thereof transmitted from the user; and

a user registration/reference means that interfaces with the users notifying said user information general management means of the user registration information and the using status information at a request of the user and the using status information,

wherein the user registration information comprises personal information about each user containing an identification number of each user and registration information containing a type of information which is requested by the users with regard to the computer-related products, said type of information can include information about products which can be used in combination with products that are used by the users and available from a plurality of vendors, and said type of information further signifies difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user, and

new information about the computer-related products from a vendor side of the computer-related products is extracted, depending on information extraction condition containing a requested information type in the registration information, and is transmitted to said user registration/reference means from said user information general management means to provide the new information<u>, and</u>

<u>the user registration information, also comprising a number of times a particular software product is used by the user, is transmitted from the user information general management means to a different vendor other than the software product's vendor.</u>

2.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim 1, wherein

said user registration/reference means requests at a request from the user said user information general management means to provide new information about the computer-related product from a vendor of the computer-related product.

3.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim 1, wherein the computer-related product is a software product, and said user registration/reference means is common to each of a plurality of software products;

when any of the plurality of software products is installed by a user, the user registration/reference means is also installed; and

after installation, said user registration/reference means issues a notification about the user registration information and using status information for the plurality of software products which are installed, and submits a request for new information about the software product.

4.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim 1, wherein said user registration information comprises:

personal information about each user including an identification number of each user; and

registration information containing a type of information requested by the user about a computer related product; and

said user information general management means extracts the new information depending on information extraction condition containing a requested information type in the registration information at a request for new information about a computer-related product from said user registration/reference means, and transmits the new information to said user registration/reference means.

5.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim 1, wherein the computer-related product is a software product and the using status information contains the number of times the software product was started; and

said user information general management means transmits new information about the software product to said user registration/reference means depending on the number of times the software product was started.

6.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim 1, wherein the computer-related product is a software product and the using status information contains the number of times the software product was started; and

said user registration/reference means requests said user information general management means to provide new information about the software product when the number of times the software product was started has reached a predetermined value.

7.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a vendor registration/reference means for obtaining the user registration information and the using status information from said user information general management means, and notifying said user information general management means of new information about the computer-related product.

8.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) The system according to claim 7, wherein the user registration information contains a type of information, requested by a user, about a computer-related product;

said vendor registration/reference means specifies a type of new information when new information about the computer-related product is available; and

said user information general management means compares the type of information requested by the user with the type specified by the vendor registration/reference means, and when both types coincide, transmits the new information to said user registration/reference means at a request from said user registration/reference means when the requested information is available.

10.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A management apparatus which manages user information about a computer-related product used by a user terminal connected through a network, comprising:

a user information general management means for managing using status information and a requested information type provided by the user terminal about a product used by a user;

a product information management means for managing product information provided by a vendor of the computer-related product including product information about additional products that can be used with a particular product; and

a product information notification means for referring to a product used by each user managed by said user information general management means and for providing product information managed by said product information management means about a product used by a user which corresponds to the products available from a plurality of vendors that can be used with the product used by the user and match the user's requested information type, wherein said requested information type further signifies a difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user, and

the using status information, also comprising a number of times a particular software product is used by the user, is transmitted to a different vendor other than the software product's vendor.

11.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with software to cause a computer to perform the actions of:

managing using status information and a requested information type provided by a user terminal about a product used by a user;

managing product information provided by a computer-related product vendor including product information about additional products available from a plurality of vendors that can be used with a particular product, wherein said requested information type further signifies a difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user; [and]

referring to the using status information and providing product information about additional products that can be used with the product used by a user and which corresponds to the requested information type at a product information request from the user terminal; and

<u>transmitting the using status information, comprising a number of times a particular</u> <u>software product is used by the user, to a different vendor other than the software product's</u> <u>vendor.</u>

12.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A user terminal apparatus comprising:

a user information notification means for notifying an external unit of user registration information and using status information including a product used by a user and a requested information type about the computer-related product; and

a product information reference means for requesting an external unit for new information about the computer-related product which corresponds to the requested information type from a computer-related product vendor and information on additional products available from a plurality of vendors that can be used with the product used by the user, and said requested information type further signifies a difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user,

<u>a using status transmitting means transmitting the using status information, comprising a</u> <u>number of times a particular software product is used by the user, to a different vendor other</u> <u>than the software product's vendor.</u>

13.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with software for causing a computer to perform the actions of:

notifying an external unit of user registration information and using status information including a product used by a user and a requested information type about a computer-related product used by a user; and

requesting an external unit for new information about the computer-related product which corresponds to the requested information type from a vendor of the computer related product and information on additional products available from a plurality of vendors that can be used with the product used by the user, and said requested information type further signifies a difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user,

the using status information, also comprising a number of times a particular software product is used by the user, is transmitted to a different vendor other than the software product's vendor.

14.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A vendor terminal apparatus comprising:

a user information reference means for obtaining, from an external unit, user registration information including a requested information type and using status information including a product used by the user transmitted from a user of a computer-related product; and

a product information notification means for notifying an external unit of new information about the computer-related product, if the new information about the computer-related product corresponds to the requested information type, the new information including additional products available from a plurality of vendors that can be used with the product used by the user, and said requested information type further signifies a difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user,

a using status information means transmitting the using status information, also comprising a number of times a particular software product is used by the user, to a different vendor other than the software product's vendor.

15.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with software to cause a computer to perform the actions of:

obtaining, from an external unit, user registration information including a requested information type, and using status information including a product used by a user, transmitted from the user of a computer-related product; [and]

notifying an external unit of new information about the computer-related product, if the new information about the computer-related product corresponds to the requested information type, the new information including additional products available from a plurality of vendors that can be used with the product used by the user, and said requested information type further signifies a difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products

that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user; and

transmitting the using status information, comprising a number of times a particular software product is used by the user, to a different vendor other than the software product's vendor.

16.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A computer implemented management system, which manages registration of computer-related products, comprising:

a user information general management module generally managing user registration information including a requested information type, and using status information including a product used by a user, transmitted from a user of the computer-related product; and

a user registration/reference module that interfaces with a user of the computer-related products notifying said user information general management module of the user registration information and the using status information and information about additional products available from a plurality of vendors that can be used with the product used by the user at a request of the user who uses a computer-related product related to the user registration information and the using status information and which corresponds to the requested information type, wherein said requested information type further signifies a difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user,

a using status information module transmitting the using status information, also comprising a number of times a particular software product is used by the user, to a different vendor other than the software product's vendor.

17.   (AS UNAMENDED) The system according to claim 16, wherein

the computer-related product is a software product, and said user registration/reference module is common to each of a plurality of software products;

when any of the plurality of software products is installed by a user, the user registration/reference module is also installed; and

after installation, said user registration/reference means issues a notification about the user registration information and using status information for the plurality of software products which are installed, and submits a request for new information about the software product.

18.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A user registration center managing and distributing information provided by both a user and a vendor comprising:

a database receiving, from the vendor product information about a product and additional product information about additional products that can be used with the product;

the database receiving, from the user, user information which includes a product used by the user and a requested information type from the user; and

a distributing module, automatically distributing to the user, additional product information corresponding to the additional products available from a plurality of vendors that can be used with the product used by the user and which match the user's requested information type, wherein said requested information type further signifies a difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user,

a using status information module transmitting the user information, also comprising a number of times a particular software product is used by the user, to a different vendor other than the software product's vendor.

19.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A method of managing and distributing information provided by both a user and a vendor comprising:

receiving, from the vendor, product information about a product and additional product information about additional products that can be used with the product;

receiving, from the user, user information which includes a product used by the user and a requested information type from the user;

storing the product information about a product and additional product information about products available from a plurality of vendors that can be used with the product and the user information which includes a product user by the user and the requested information type from the user, all in a database, wherein said requested information type further signifies a

difference in vendor of said products that can be used in combination with products that are used by the user, in terms of whether the vendor is the same or not with the vendor of the products that are used by the user; [and]

distributing the additional product information to a user automatically corresponding to the additional products that can be used with the product used by the user and which match the user's requested information type; and

distributing the user information, also comprising a number of times a particular software product is used by the user, to a different vendor other than the software product's vendor.

20.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) The product information distributed to the user as claimed in claim 18, wherein said product information distributed to the user includes a plurality of product information correlating to products used by the user as indicated by the user information.